

Weekly Field Memo – March 14, 2013

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From the Vermont Agency of Education (VT-AOE):

Education – Join the Conversation: Understanding the Cost of Education

Audience: All

Secretary Vilaseca and Deputy Commissioner Talbott spoke with Lamoille North SU Business Manager Marilyn Frederick and Orange Southwest SU Business Manager Robin Pembroke about Vermont's statewide property tax system – specifically understanding the cost of education. The group also spoke

about current legislation ([Act 156](#) and [Act 153](#)) and school exploring school district/supervisory union mergers and Regional Education Districts (RED) in an effort to reduce per pupil spending. Learn more about *Education – Join the Conversation* and watch videos here: <http://bit.ly/13nBNnZ>.

Contact: Angela Ross, Public Information Officer, (802) 828-3154 or angela.ross@state.vt.us.

Secretary Vilaseca: This Is High School Today

Audience: All

Governor Peter Shumlin wasted no time in getting down to work to improve education in Vermont. In his second inaugural address, the Governor outlined several areas of focus to ensure that Vermont continues to lead in education. Expanding pre-school opportunities for all kids is a high priority because we know children who enter kindergarten ready to learn are better prepared to be successful in school. The Governor is also dedicated to closing the achievement gap for children whose families struggle financially... Read Secretary Vilaseca's full OpEd here: <http://bit.ly/13tY8OX>.

Contact: Angela Ross, Public Information Officer, (802) 828-3154 or angela.ross@state.vt.us.

SMARTER Balanced Assessment Consortium Weekly Question

Audience: All

"What is a performance task?" View the answers to this week's question [here](#).

Contact: Michael Hock at (802) 828-3115 or michael.hock@state.vt.us.

Regional Student Attendance Calendars

Audience: Superintendents, Principals, Headmasters, Regional Technical Center Directors, Curriculum Coordinators

Deadline: April 1, 2013

State statute [[16 V.S.A. §1071 \(e\)](#)] requires that superintendents of schools and regional public school principals and headmasters meet *before April 1*, and by majority vote, establish a uniform calendar within that area for the following school year. The calendar needs to include student attendance days, periods of vacation, holidays and the requisite five teacher in-service education days. Approved calendars can be sent electronically to Carol King (Carol.C.King@state.vt.us) or Allison Keating (Allison.Keating@state.vt.us).

Contact: Carol King, State Board Liaison, at (802) 828-5101 or carol.c.king@state.vt.us.

Proposed New Endorsement: Director of Curriculum

Audience: Directors of Curriculum, Curriculum Coordinators, Education Preparation Programs, Superintendents, Principals

The Director of Curriculum endorsement authorizes administrators to coordinate the curriculum, instruction, assessment, and professional learning activities of a school district or supervisory union. Review an introduction to the endorsement and draft [here](#).

Contact: Mary Beth McNulty, Coordinator of Professional Standards, marybeth.mcnulty@state.vt.us

Common Core ELA Speaking & Listening: Gathering Ideas and Making Meaning Webinar

Audience: Superintendents, Principals, Curriculum Coordinators, Librarians, Special Educators, Classroom Teachers

Common Core English Language Arts Speaking & Listening: "Gathering Ideas and Making Meaning" is the 3rd in the series of webinars developed to assist with implementation of the CCSS expectations for speaking and listening. The intent of this webinar is to build on the ideas from the first 2 webinars, A Culture of Talk, and Productive Talk and offer educators strategies to engage students in productive academic talk through the use of a science Gathering of Ideas Meeting as well as a Making Meaning

Meeting. While the content of this webinar is science and the identified audience is K-5, the strategies being shared are applicable to all disciplines and can be adapted to fit the needs of all grade levels. This webinar will begin at 3:30 PM on Tuesday, March 26, 2013. Please register online:

<https://student.gototraining.com/r/332704870937727488>

Contact: Kathy Renfrew, Science Coordinator, at (802) 828-6561 or kathy.renfrew@state.vt.us.

Common Core Resources for Successful Implementation: Slideshare

Audience: Classroom Teachers, Content Coaches, Curriculum Coordinators, Special Educators, Librarians

[Slideshare.net](http://slideshare.net) allows professionals to contribute digital presentations on a variety of integral topics in education. The library includes many quality presentations with content related to Common Core Standards. The content may provide ideas for your own professional development needs. Click [here](#) to view a slideshow presentation related to developing text dependent questions in content areas.

Contact: Lori Dolezal, Elementary Literacy Coordinator at (802) 828-5124 or lori.dolezal@state.vt.us.

Collaboration and Formative Assessment of Language for ELLs

Audience: Principals, Superintendents, English Language Learners (ELL) District Coordinators, ELL Teachers

In inclusive classroom environments, how can teachers join together to knowledgeably assess ELLs in their language growth? This workshop is devoted to the ways in which educators can support each other within the classroom and school to foster language growth for their ELLs. Click [here](#) for more information. The workshop will be held at the Doubletree Hotel, South Burlington, VT on Thursday, March 21, 2013.

Contacts: For workshop content: Jim McCobb at (802) 828-0185 or james.mccobb@state.vt.us. For registration: Lucille Chicoine at (802) 828-5922 or lucille.chicoine@state.vt.us.

Early Education Initiative (EEI) Grant Applications for 2013-2014

Audience: Principals, Superintendents

Deadline: All EEI grant applications are due on or before May 6, 2013

Applications for the Early Education Initiative (EEI) grant program are now available. EEI was established by the Vermont Legislature in 1987 to provide early education opportunities for three- and four-year-olds who are at-risk. The EEI grant is a one-year grant awarded through a competitive process; the range for EEI grants is \$10,000 to \$30,000. Funding is contingent upon legislative approval. The EEI grant applications are available online: <http://bit.ly/WHILpO>.

Contact: Shirley Rawson, Program Technician, at (802) 828-5128 or shirley.rawson@state.vt.us.

Supplement to FY-2013 IDEA-B Grant Application

Audience: Superintendents, Special Education Directors and Business Managers

Deadline: June 3, 2013 for FY 2013 Grants

Based on recent information from the Office of Special Education Programs, supervisory unions need to submit a Supplement to FY 2013 IDEA-B grant application (available online: <http://bit.ly/Z1skRr>) with updated calculations to demonstrate that they are meeting the excess cost requirements for the current grant year. The form updates the information submitted in the FY 2013 Local Education Agency Plan at the beginning of the year using FY 2012 expenditure information and FY 2013 child count.

Contact: Margaret Schelley, Special Ed Finance Mgr, at (802) 828-5119 or Margaret.schelley@state.vt.us.

Science Conference Scheduled for April 4, 2013

Audience: All

The Vermont Science Teachers' Association will hold its annual conference, "[Science Innovations for the Next Generation](#)" on April 4, 2013, at the Lake Morey Inn in Fairlee, VT. A variety of Vermont educators will share examples of science instruction and innovative planning that will support transition to the upcoming Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS). Keynote speaker will be Dr. Stephen Pruitt, who is leading the national development of the NGSS. [Conference registration can be completed online.](#)

Contact: Gail Hall at (802) 828-0156 or gail.hall@state.vt.us or Kathy Renfrew at (802) 828-6561 or kathy.renfrew@state.vt.us.

Teacher Feature: Recognize Educators in Your District

Audience: All

We recently launched a social media campaign that we're calling "**Teacher Feature**". It's a way for Vermonters to nominate the great teachers in their communities. Learn more about the latest nominee, **Alison Sullivan** from the Dover School, here: <http://on.fb.me/YBZVO>.

Please send submissions to Angela Ross at angela.ross@state.vt.us or (802) 828-3135.

Reminder: Community Dinners on High School Innovation

Audience: All

Do you have a great idea for an engaging and innovative program that would be beneficial to Vermont's students? Come, join the conversation and enjoy a free dinner! The VT-AOE is hosting several community dinners for regional educators, business leaders and community members to discuss ways to develop and promote current innovative educational practices at the high school level. The Community Dinners on High School Innovation will be held from 6 – 8 p.m. on the following dates:

- Thursday, March 7th at South Burlington High School
- Thursday, March 14th at [Castleton State College](#), Campus Center Room 1787
- Thursday, March 28th at [Missisquoi Valley UHS](#), School Cafeteria
- Thursday, April 4th at [Johnson State College](#), Stearns Student Center Performance Space
- Thursday, April 11th at [National Life](#), Dining Hall
- Thursday, April 25th at [Brattleboro Union High School](#), Multi-Purpose Room

If interested, **please register:** <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/M9DP2T9>. Learn more about the Community Dinners on High School Innovation here: <http://bit.ly/XVBDTK>.

Contact: Meg Powden, School Effectiveness Coordinator, at (802) 828-0262 or meg.powden@state.vt.us.

Reminder: Teachers Who Write Conference 2013

Audience: Curriculum Coordinators, Classroom Teachers

Deadline: April 24, 2013

The 25th annual day-long Teachers Who Write Conference will be held on Friday, May 3rd, at the Vermont College of Fine Arts in Montpelier. Co-sponsored by The Vermont Council of Teachers of English Language Arts, the Green Mountain Writing Project of Vermont, and the Vermont Agency of Education, the conference features Jay Parini, speaker, poet, novelist, and critic. In addition, the conference offers book displays, a variety of workshop sessions, and a luncheon concert. [Learn more about the Teachers Who Write Conference.](#)

Contact: Rose Wheeler, Administrative Assistant, at (802) 828-3114 or rose.wheeler@state.vt.us.

Reminder: Special Education-IDEA Resources on VE²

"A new group for information and discussion titled *Special Education-IDEA Resources* has opened on the Vermont Education Exchange, or VE² (<http://ve2.vermont.gov/>). Several discussion topics including

post Common Core, Secondary Transition, Legislation and Assessment have already been established. All teachers, related service providers, administrators and boards of education are all welcome to join or establish discussions, provide information on best practices for students with disabilities, link to additional information of import about special education, professional learning opportunities, and communicate with peers throughout the state on issues concerning special education. There are discussion opportunities and a calendar of events along with an opportunity to provide links to additional resources. It is anticipated that this new venture will provide a wide ranging opportunity for education professionals and especially those teachers working with students with disabilities to link with one another in a positive and collaborative manner.” To access this group, [click here](#).
Contact: Alice Farrell, Special Education Director, at (802) 828-0555 or alice.farrell@state.vt.us.

Other Announcements:

Vermont 2-1-1

Audience: All

Using Vermont 2-1-1 as a network communication system can support schools in getting vital information to parents and the public. 2-1-1 assists communities with any kind of incidents and should be included in every *Vermont school safety plan*. Schools can contact 2-1-1 by phone, fax or email to inform them of the incident and give them information for parents and the public as to what level the incident is, if there is a lockdown (secure the building), where students are being evacuated, etc. This support allows schools and first responders to focus on the safety of students while still respecting the need of parents to know what is happening with their children. Vermont 2-1-1 is eager to test the system through a cooperative emergency drill to ensure the system of communication is sound. Please contact us with questions or for more information. Learn more about 2-1-1 here: <http://www.vermont211.org/>.
Contacts: MaryEllen Mendl at (802) 861-0146 x205 or maryellen@unitedwaysvt.org; Carmel Quinn at (802) 861-0146 x207 or carmel@unitedwaysvt.org.

Vermont Center for Afterschool Excellence

Audience: All

The Vermont Center for Afterschool Excellence’s March newsletter is out. In this issue we cover:

- [Resources for Summer Learning Programs in Vermont](#)
- [Afterschool Alliance 2013 Lights On Afterschool Poster Contest](#)
- Upcoming Webinars- Summer Learning and STEM
- [Grant Opportunities- PEP Grants and VT Afterschool Grants](#)
- Upcoming Summer Training Opportunities- SPARK Course

Read the full newsletter and learn more here: <http://vermontafterschool.org/about/>.

DMV Reminder: Mandatory School Bus Evacuation Drill

Audience: School Administrators and Transportation Coordinators

State law ([23 VSA §1285](#)) requires school districts in Vermont to conduct school bus evacuation drills twice a year. If your school has not yet conducted your second evacuation drill, please do so as soon as possible. The first drill should have been done early in the school year. All students of the school should participate in these drills. DMV inspectors will be spot checking school records to assure drills are being conducted and documented.

Contacts: Patrick McManamon at (802) 828-3757 or patrick.mcmanamon@state.vt.us; Marty Dexter at (802) 828-2114 or marty.dexter@state.vt.us; Paul Graves at (802) 828-2068 or paul.graves@state.vt.us.

DMV School Bus Survey: Updating Contact Information

Audience: School Administrators, Transportation Coordinators

The Vermont Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) Enforcement and Safety Division are updating contact information for School Bus Providers. We are requesting that your school district/school complete the brief survey located here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/WP7DTNR>.

Contact: Patrick McManamon, DMV, at (802)828-3757 or patrick.mcmanamon@state.vt.us.

VDH Envision Program Announces Grant Opportunity

Audience: All

The Vermont Department of Health's (VDH) [Envision Program](#) is pleased to announce a grant opportunity for 2013. This grant is intended to assist schools with environmental health and indoor air quality management. For more information and application instructions email Envision Program Coordinator, Chris Zuidema at christopher.Zuidema@state.vt.us.

Contact: Chris Zuidema, VDH, at (802) 865-7762 or christopher.Zuidema@state.vt.us.

DEMHS Newsletter – March Edition now Online!

Audience: All

The March edition of the Vermont Division of Emergency Management & Homeland Security (DEMHS) newsletter is [now on-line](#). Topics in this newsletter: mitigation grant program update, 2013 preparedness conference and upcoming trainings. You can find a link to this and past issues [here](#).

Contact: Mark Bosma, Public Information Officer, at mark.bosma@state.vt.us.

YRBS & BRFSS Briefs from the VDH

Audience: All

The Vermont Department of Health (VDH) is pleased to share two data briefs looking at heart health and the prevention of cardiovascular disease. One brief focuses on youth and includes data from the Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) The other looks at adults and utilizes information from the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS).

- YRBS - http://healthvermont.gov/research/yrbs/documents/data_brief_20133_hearthealth.pdf
- BRFSS - http://healthvermont.gov/research/brfss/documents/data_brief_201303_cvdprevent.pdf

For questions about YRBS data brief, contact Shayla Livingston: Shayla.livingston@state.vt.us. For questions about the BRFSS data brief, contact Jessie Hammond at Jessie.hammond@state.vt.us.

Navicate: New Identity and Next Chapter for Linking Learning to Life

Audience: All

As of March 11th, Linking Learning to Life (LLL) will be known as [Navicate](#), which stands for our work in supporting young people with navigating next steps related to careers and post-secondary education. It also represents our work in helping transform the education system in Vermont by creating real-world learning experiences. Currently, Navicate programs engage over 5,000 students in 50+ schools throughout the state. Visit our website www.navicate.org to learn more out upcoming trainings and how your school can get involved.

Contact: Lindsey Lathrop at (802) 734-2802 or llathrop@bsdvt.org.

PBS Kids Go! Writers Contest

Audience: Children Grades K-3

Deadline: March 22, 2013

Vermont Public Television will be holding its [18th PBS Kids Go! Writers Contest](#). Originally known as the Reading Rainbow Contest, this program is designed to promote children's reading skills through hands-

on, active learning, as kids write and illustrate original stories. Learn more about the contest here: <http://vppt.org/writers>, read rules and enter here: <http://bit.ly/Z7jXnn>.

STEM Scholarship (New England Federal Credit Union)

Audience: All

Deadline: April 30, 2013

The New England Federal Credit Union will award three \$3,000 scholarships to credit union members/member dependents. Applicant must be applying to or enrolled in an accredited undergraduate or graduate program at a college, trade school, or university. Read full eligibility requirements and apply here: <http://bit.ly/Yqogac>.

Edible Schoolyard Academy

Audience: All

The Edible Schoolyard Academy trains educators to create powerful and sustainable edible education programs in their schools and communities. Each June, we invite teachers, administrators, and advocates from around the world to spend five days behind the scenes at the Edible Schoolyard Berkeley. Learn and experience first-hand the core principles and practical tools for bringing academic subjects to life in the kitchen, garden and lunchroom. Whether you are a new or seasoned practitioner, the Academy will strengthen your program and build your leadership in the field. Learn more and register [here](#).

College Steps

Audience: All

College STEPS is now accepting fall 2013 applications. Applications for both Johnson and Castleton Programs can be found on our website, or by clicking [here](#).

Contact: Lauren Merritt, College STEPS program, at (802) 578-3227 or lauren@collegesteps.org.

Free ATV Certification Class for 12-17 year olds

Audience: All

Deadline: April 10, 2013

Vermont All-Terrain Vehicle Sportsman's Association and [UVM Extension 4-H](#) are collaborating to host a free ATV certification class for 12-17 year olds on Saturday, April 20th at the UVM Extension Office, 617 Comstock Road, Berlin, Vermont from 9am to 2pm. Lunch and Materials Included!

Contact: Kristen Mullins, UVM, at (802) 656-2034 or mrysten.mullins@uvm.edu.

EdCamp Vermont – New Website!

Audience: Teachers, Administrators, Anyone Involved in Education

Vermont Ed Camp is sponsored by VT ASCD and this “unconference” will take place at the Essex Middle School in Essex Junction, VT on March 23, 2013 from 8:30 am to 2:00 pm. Learn more about EdCamp Vermont: <http://edcampvt.wordpress.com/> and register here: <http://bit.ly/13tqBso>.

Contact: Larry Fliegelman at (802) 472-6551 or lfliegelman@ossu.org.

This Field Memo is posted weekly by the Vermont Agency of Education (VT-AOE) to better organize our e-communications to the field. There may be times when separate messages from the department will still be sent. In addition, the VT-AOE Weekly Field Memo is [archived](#) on the Agency of Education website. For information which is three months or older, or for other questions, please contact Angela Ross, Public Information Officer, at (802) 828-3154 or angela.ross@state.vt.us.

Vermont Agency of Education | 120 State Street | Montpelier, VT 05620-2501

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